

Appl. No.: 10/084,981  
Amdt. dated 12/27/2005  
Reply to Office action of 07/27/2005

### REMARKS

This amendment is submitted along with a request for two months extension and appropriate fee in reply to the Office Action dated July 27, 2005. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 5-8, 13-16, 21-24 and 29-32 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-4, 9-12, 17-20, 25-28 and 33-36 currently stand rejected. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Claim 6 has been amended to change dependency from claim 5 to claim 1. No new matter has been added by the amendment. Claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice.

In light of the remarks presented below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all now-pending claims of the present application.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102/103

Claims 1-4, 17-20 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holshouser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,970, hereinafter "Holshouser"). Claims 9-12 and 25-28 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holshouser in view of Baro (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,559).

As stated above, the Office Action indicated that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Since claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter from claim 5, the subject matter claimed in claims 1 and 17 is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Thus, claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Claims 2-4, 9-12, 18-20, 25-28 and 33-36 depend either directly or indirectly from corresponding independent claims 1 and 17 and therefore include all the recitations of their corresponding independent claims. Thus, dependent claims 2-4, 9-12, 18-20, 25-28 and 33-36 are patentable for at least the same reasons as given above for the independent claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-4, 9-12, 17-20, 25-28 and 33-36 are overcome.

Appl. No.: 10/084,981  
Amdt. dated 12/27/2005  
Reply to Office action of 07/27/2005

### CONCLUSION

In view of the amendment, the newly added claims and the remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present invention.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad L. Thorson  
Registration No. 55,675

Customer No. 00826  
ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000  
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

### CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.



Nancy McPartland  
CLM/14775674v1

12-27-05  
Date